

# RELIGIOUS STUDIES, BA

Religious Studies is an academic discipline that looks at religious phenomena worldwide from different perspectives to understand the many roles that religion plays in human life. To this end, students of religion learn to use a variety of theoretical analyses and methods:

- historical methods to understand how religions develop in time;
- critical literary methods to understand religious ideas;
- aesthetic methods to understand religious art and material culture;
- social-scientific methods to understand the relationship between religion, society and culture.

Religious studies can also engage a variety of professional disciplines in analysis of how religion functions in economic, educational or political contexts, healthcare and scientific research, and others.

Some ways of studying religion emphasize understanding religions on their own terms, other ways use comparative methods to discern differences and similarities between religions. Students of religion also study ways that people use religious resources to make meaning outside the boundaries of religious institutions and identities. Above all, the field of religious studies requires a willingness to explore different ways of interpreting human life and diligent effort to develop understanding of how religious ideas, symbols, rituals and spaces serve as resources for people in a variety of contexts as they make sense of and live out their lives in the world. Thus, the Religious Studies major provides important preparation for thinking, communicating and functioning professionally and personally in a complex, multidimensional world.

## HOW TO GET IN

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Requirements	Details
How to get in	No application required. All students who meet the requirements listed below are eligible to declare. For information on how to declare, visit Advising & Careers.
Courses required to get in	None
GPA requirements to get in	None
Credits required to get in	None
Other	None

Students declared in the Religious Studies certificate may not be declared in the Religious Studies major at the same time. Students who do wish to declare this major must first cancel their declaration in the certificate.

## REQUIREMENTS

### UNIVERSITY GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison are required to fulfill a minimum set of common university general education requirements to ensure that every graduate acquires the essential core of an undergraduate education. This core establishes a foundation for living a productive life, being a citizen of the world, appreciating aesthetic values, and engaging in lifelong learning in a continually changing world. Various schools and colleges will have requirements in addition to the requirements listed below. Consult your advisor for assistance, as needed. For additional information, see the university Undergraduate General Education Requirements (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#requirementsforundergraduatetext>) section of the Guide.

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|-------------------|--|
| General Education | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breadth—Humanities/Literature/Arts: 6 credits</li> <li>• Breadth—Natural Science: 4 to 6 credits, consisting of one 4- or 5-credit course with a laboratory component; or two courses providing a total of 6 credits</li> <li>• Breadth—Social Studies: 3 credits</li> <li>• Communication Part A &amp; Part B *</li> <li>• Ethnic Studies *</li> <li>• Quantitative Reasoning Part A &amp; Part B *</li> </ul> |
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\* The mortarboard symbol appears before the title of any course that fulfills one of the Communication Part A or Part B, Ethnic Studies, or Quantitative Reasoning Part A or Part B requirements.

### COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA)

Students pursuing a bachelor of arts degree in the College of Letters & Science must complete all of the requirements below. The College of Letters & Science allows this major to be paired with either a bachelor of arts or a bachelor of science curriculum.

### BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

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|-------------|--|
| Mathematics | Complete the University General Education Requirements for Quantitative Reasoning A (QR-A) and Quantitative Reasoning B (QR-B) coursework.   |
| Language    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete the fourth unit of a language other than English; OR</li> <li>• Complete the third unit of a language and the second unit of an additional language other than English.</li> </ul> |

L&S Breadth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12 credits of Humanities, which must include 6 credits of literature; and</li> <li>• 12 credits of Social Science; and</li> <li>• 12 credits of Natural Science, which must include one 3+ credit Biological Science course and one 3+ credit Physical Science course.</li> </ul>
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Liberal Arts and Science Coursework	Complete at least 108 credits.
Depth of Intermediate/Advanced work	Complete at least 60 credits at the intermediate or advanced level.
Major	Declare and complete at least one major.
Total Credits	Complete at least 120 credits.
UW-Madison Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30 credits in residence, overall; and</li> <li>• 30 credits in residence after the 86th credit.</li> </ul>
Quality of Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.000 in all coursework at UW-Madison</li> <li>• 2.000 in Intermediate/Advanced level coursework at UW-Madison</li> </ul>

## NON-L&S STUDENTS PURSUING AN L&S MAJOR

Non-L&S students who have permission from their school/college to pursue an additional major within L&S only need to fulfill the major requirements. They do not need to complete the L&S Degree Requirements above.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR

Students must complete 30 credits in Religious Studies course work, to include:

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Gateway (Complete one course:)</b>		<b>3</b>
RELIG ST 101	Religion in Global Perspective	
RELIG ST 102	Exploring Religion in Sickness and Health	
RELIG ST 103	Exploring Religion and Sexuality	
RELIG ST/ FOLKLORE 104	Sacred Places and Journeys	
RELIG ST 105	Religion and Popular Culture-Local and Global	
<b>Middle Sequence</b>		<b>15</b>
RELIG ST/ JEWISH 215	The Sabbath	
RELIG ST 280	Witches and Wizards: from Hecate to Harry Potter	
RELIG ST 300	America and Religions	
RELIG ST 320	Prophets and Poets: Women, Writing and Religion in a Time of War, 1642-1660	
RELIG ST/ AFRICAN 408	Everyday Religion in Africa	

RELIG ST 302	Christianity: Interpretation and Practice
RELIG ST/ GEN&WS 305	Women, Gender and Religion
RELIG ST/ASIAN/ HISTORY 308	Introduction to Buddhism
RELIG ST/ HISTORY/ MEDIEVAL 309	The Crusades: Christianity and Islam
RELIG ST 311	Sects and Cults
RELIG ST/ JEWISH/ LITTRANS 328	Classical Rabbinic Literature in Translation
RELIG ST/ HIST SCI/ MED HIST 331	Science, Medicine and Religion
RELIG ST/ CLASSICS/ HEBR-BIB/ JEWISH/ LITTRANS 332	Prophets of the Bible
RELIG ST 333	Early Christian Literature: Matthew-Revelation
RELIG ST/ CLASSICS/ JEWISH 335	King David in History and Tradition
RELIG ST/ JEWISH 340	The American Jewish Life of DNA
RELIG ST/ FOLKLORE/ MEDIEVAL/ SCAND ST 342	Nordic Mythology
RELIG ST/ ANTHRO 343	Anthropology of Religion
RELIG ST/ FOLKLORE 352	Shamanism
RELIG ST/ ASIAN 306	Hinduism
RELIG ST/ENGL/ HISTORY 360	Early Medieval England
RELIG ST 361	Early Christian Literature: Pauline Christianity
RELIG ST/ AFRICAN/ ASIAN 370	Islam: Religion and Culture
RELIG ST/ ART HIST 373	Mecca, Cairo, Istanbul, Delhi: Great Cities of Islam
RELIG ST/ COM ARTS 374	The Rhetoric of Religion
RELIG ST 400	Topics in Religious Studies - Humanities
RELIG ST 401	Topics in Religious Studies - Social Studies
RELIG ST 403	Topics in Religious Studies-US Ethnic Studies
RELIG ST 406	The Amish
RELIG ST 410	Children and Religion in America

RELIG ST/ HISTORY 411	The Enlightenment and Its Critics	
RELIG ST/ AFRICAN 414	Islam in Africa and the Diaspora	
RELIG ST 420	Religious Studies Colloquium	
RELIG ST/ POLI SCI 433	Religion and Politics	
RELIG ST/ ENGL 434	Milton	
RELIG ST/ ITALIAN/ MEDIEVAL 440	Poverty, Ecology and the Arts: St. Francis of Assisi	
RELIG ST/ ASIAN 466	Buddhist Thought	
RELIG ST/ ASIAN 473	Meditation in Indian Buddhism and Hinduism	
RELIG ST 475	Religion, Global and Public Health	
RELIG ST 478		
RELIG ST 500	Advanced Topics in Religious Studies	
RELIG ST/ PHILOS 501	Philosophy of Religion	
RELIG ST/ CURRIC/ ED POL 516	Religion and Public Education	
RELIG ST/ CLASSICS/ HISTORY 517	Religions of the Ancient Mediterranean	
RELIG ST/ ASIAN 650	Proseminar in Buddhist Thought	
<b>Capstone</b>		
RELIG ST 600	Religion in Critical Perspective	3
<b>Electives: Any course from RELIG ST 100 through 699</b>		<b>9</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>30</b>

## RESIDENCE AND QUALITY OF WORK

- 2.000 GPA in all RELIG ST and major courses
- 2.000 GPA on 15 Upper-Level credits for the major, taken in residence<sup>1</sup>
- 15 credits in RELIG ST or the major, taken on campus

<sup>1</sup> Courses counting as upper-level in the major are any RELIG ST courses at the Intermediate or Advanced level.

## HONORS IN THE MAJOR

Students may declare Honors in the Major in consultation with the Religious Studies undergraduate advisor.

### HONORS IN THE MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

To earn Honors in the Major, students must satisfy both the requirements for the major (above) and these additional requirements:

- Minimum 3.300 University GPA
- Minimum 3.500 GPA in all RELIG ST and all major courses
- Complete 12 credits, taken for Honors, with individual grades of B or better, to include:
  - RELIG ST 600
  - RELIG ST 681 and RELIG ST 682 for at least 6 credits.
  - 3 additional credits of Intermediate or Advanced level RELIG ST and major courses

## UNIVERSITY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

**Total Degree** To receive a bachelor's degree from UW-Madison, students must earn a minimum of 120 degree credits. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 degree credits. Students should consult with their college or department advisor for information on specific credit requirements.

**Residency** Degree candidates are required to earn a minimum of 30 credits in residence at UW-Madison. "In residence" means on the UW-Madison campus with an undergraduate degree classification. "In residence" credit also includes UW-Madison courses offered in distance or online formats and credits earned in UW-Madison Study Abroad/Study Away programs.

**Quality of Work** Undergraduate students must maintain the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, or academic program to remain in good academic standing. Students whose academic performance drops below these minimum thresholds will be placed on academic probation.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

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1. Proficiency in close reading, interpretation, and written and oral analysis.
2. Proficiency in accessing, appraising, and utilizing a variety of resources and methods for research across disciplinary lines.
3. Proficiency in categorizing, analyzing and comparing diverse systems of value and belief in a variety of contexts.
4. Global and local religious literacy; identifying, evaluating, and interpreting the interrelationships and impact of religious worldviews and communities in Wisconsin, the United States and globally.
5. Ability to conduct and present sustained research on primary sources using methodologies/analysis of religious studies culminating in the senior capstone project.

## FOUR-YEAR PLAN

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This Four-Year Plan is only one way a student may complete an L&S degree with this major. Many factors can affect student degree planning, including placement scores, credit for transferred courses, credits earned by examination, and individual scholarly interests. In addition, many students have commitments (e.g., athletics, honors, research, student organizations, study abroad, work and volunteer experiences) that necessitate they adjust their plans accordingly. Informed students engage

in their own unique Wisconsin Experience by consulting their academic advisors, Guide, DARS, and Course Search & Enroll for assistance making and adjusting their plan.

### First Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
RELIG ST 101, 102, 103, 104, or 105	3 RELIG ST course meeting Literature Breadth <sup>1</sup>	3
Communication A	3 RELIG ST elective	3
Quantitative Reasoning A	3-4 Biological Science Breadth	3
Foreign Language (if needed)	4 Social Science Breadth	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
	<b>16</b>	<b>15</b>

### Second Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
RELIG ST course with Literature Breadth <sup>1</sup>	3 RELIG ST/ILS 234 or 236 (meets Communication B requirement)	3
Quantitative Reasoning B	3 RELIG ST/ FOLKLORE 352 or 403 (meets Ethnic Studies requirement)	3
Social Science Breadth	3 Physical Science Breadth	3
Elective	4 I/A COMP SCI, MATH or STAT (if needed for BS)	3
INTER-LS 210	1 Elective	4
	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>

### Third Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
RELIG ST Elective (numbered 300 or above)	6 RELIG ST Elective (numbered 300 or above)	9
Social Science Breadth	3 Science Breadth	3
I/A COMP SCI, MATH or STAT (if needed for BS)	3 Social Science Breadth	3
Elective	4	
	<b>16</b>	<b>15</b>

### Fourth Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
RELIG ST Elective (numbered 300 or above)	3 RELIG ST Electives	6
Science Breadth	3 Elective	9
Electives	4 RELIG ST 600	3
	<b>10</b>	<b>18</b>

**Total Credits 120**

## ADVISING AND CAREERS

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### ADVISING

Dr. Corrie Norman (cenorman@wisc.edu) is the undergraduate advisor and Honors in the Major advisor. Students are encouraged to meet with Dr. Norman early to plan for successful completion and take advantage of opportunities such as Honors, special research, internship, service learning or study abroad opportunities in associate with the major or certificate.

Because Religious Studies is an interdisciplinary major drawing upon many subject areas, some courses may have requisites that must be fulfilled even though the requisites themselves are not part of the Religious Studies major's courses. Students are responsible for ensuring that they have met all the requisites to enroll in a course. See: Religious Studies courses ([https://guide.wisc.edu/courses/relig\\_st/](https://guide.wisc.edu/courses/relig_st/)).

### CAREERS

Religious studies engages a variety of professional disciplines and provides important preparation for thinking, communicating, and functioning professionally in a complex, multi-dimensional world.

Religious studies sponsors workshops and other career exploration vehicles, often in collaboration with SuccessWorks at the College of Letters & Science, to aid students in articulating the value of religious studies for their career preparation. Student-developed capstone projects often make specific connections to experiential learning and career preparation in a range of fields. Talk with Dr. Norman about possibilities for combining internships and other forms of preprofessional training with the major and certificate.

### SUCCESSWORKS

SuccessWorks (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/>) at the College of Letters & Science helps you turn the academic skills learned in your classes into a fulfilling life, guiding you every step of the way to securing jobs, internships, or admission to graduate school.

Through one-on-one career advising, events, and resources, you can explore career options, build valuable internship and research experience, and connect with supportive alumni and employers who open doors of opportunity.

- What you can do with your major (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/what-you-can-do-with-your-major/>) (Major Skills & Outcomes Sheets)
- Make a career advising appointment (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/make-an-appointment/>)
- Learn about internships and internship funding (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/finding-a-job-or-internship/>)
- Try "Jobs, Internships, & How to Get Them," (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/canvas/>) an interactive guide in Canvas for enrolled UW-Madison students

<sup>1</sup> Consult the Course Search & Enroll tool for a comprehensive list of RELIG ST courses designated for Literature Breadth.